

While this budget is being touted for fighting terrorism, the bulk of the funding is committed to buying weapons systems designed or conceived during the Cold War. The missile defense system, a knockoff of President Reagan's failed Star Wars missile defense program, gets \$8 billion in the Republican budget, even though it is not clear that this system will ever work or ever defend the United States from any of the actual threats that we actually face. In fact, it has failed test after test after test.

In addition to massive new spending on dated military technologies, the Republican budget also includes provisions that would cut taxes by \$591 billion over the next 10 years, making last year's tax cut permanent and providing a host of new tax cuts to America's wealthiest companies like Enron, IBM, American Airlines, Ford, GM, and to the wealthiest individuals in this country. The share of these tax cuts going to the top 1 percent of wage earners, top 1 percent richest people, would exceed the share going to the bottom 80 percent. The top 1 percent receives 45 percent of the tax cut's benefits even though they now pay only 21 percent of Federal taxes. The bottom 80 percent gets only 28 percent of the tax cut's benefits with an average cut of only \$430.

Republicans claim the typical family of four will be able to get, quote, at least \$1,600 more of their own money when the plan is fully effective. However, more than 85 percent of taxpayers will get less than that amount. Many will get nothing. One-third of families with children receive no tax cut at all. More than half of all black and Hispanic families will receive nothing under this plan, even though 75 percent of those families have at least one working parent.

Under this plan, a single mother with two children and a \$22,000 annual income gets zero from the tax cut. A retired widow with no children and an income of \$30,000 would get \$300 but a couple making \$550,000 with no children would get a tax break of \$19,000.

Unfortunately, once we are done paying for military spending increases and new tax cuts, there is little left for other pressing concerns. For the last many years, literally millions of retired seniors have not been able to afford the medicines they need. We have all talked about this in our campaigns. Yet the President's budget includes only \$190 billion for Medicare modernization and prescription drugs. It is not anywhere near the amount to fill the prescription drug gap in the Medicare program.

Bipartisan estimates say that to ensure that retirees have access to adequate, just adequate, prescription drug benefit coverage would cost at least \$700 billion over 10 years. The President's budget has only \$190 billion. The Republican budget we will vote on tomorrow has only \$300 billion, because of the tax cuts. It will cost the Nation

much more than that if we remain indifferent to the possible trade-offs that seniors face every day when it comes to their health. Our senior citizens are being forced to ration health care, not based on cost effectiveness, but on how far they can stretch a fixed income to pay for exorbitantly expensive medicines.

The U.S. is the wealthiest nation on earth. We are not a drug industry puppet. We must do better by our seniors. Investing too little in prescription drug benefits is like paying to put half a roof on our house.

Mr. Speaker, I am afraid the Republican budget with huge tax cuts is taking us down the same road we traveled last year. We will not be able to do other things that Americans are demanding of us.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

Rabbi Joseph F. Mendelsohn, Heska Amuna Synagogue, Knoxville, Tennessee, offered the following prayer:

The prayer I am about to offer is not original, rather it is read by Jewish congregations throughout the United States every Saturday morning during Sabbath services.

Our God and God of our ancestors, we ask Your blessings for our country, for its government, for its leaders and advisors, and for all who exercise just and rightful authority. Help them to administer all affairs of state fairly, that peace and security, happiness and prosperity, justice and freedom may forever abide in our midst.

Creator of all flesh, bless all the inhabitants of our country with Your spirit. May citizens of all races and creeds forge a common bond in true harmony to banish all hatred and bigotry and to safeguard the ideals and free institutions which are the pride and glory of our country.

May this land under Your Providence be an influence for good throughout the world, uniting all people in peace and freedom and helping them to fulfill the vision of Your Prophet: "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they experience war any more."

And let us say, Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DUNCAN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING RABBI JOSEPH MENDELSON OF HESKA AMUNA SYNAGOGUE, KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, we are privileged to have as our guest chaplain today Rabbi Joseph Mendelsohn of the Heska Amuna Synagogue in Knoxville, Tennessee, to lead us in our opening prayer. Heska Amuna, loosely translated, means "stronghold of faith," and "strong faith" are words that could certainly be used about the life of Rabbi Mendelsohn.

This is the first time since I have been a Member of the House, and I am in my 14th year now, this is the first time I have had a member of the clergy from my district lead us in prayer, and I am very honored.

Rabbi Mendelsohn was a longtime congregant and leader in conservative Jewish congregations throughout California. He became so dedicated to his faith that he decided to fulfill his dream of becoming a full-time member of the rabbinical clergy.

Known in Knoxville as "Rabbi Joe," he has been well received, not just by his congregation, but also by his fellow clergymen of all faiths in east Tennessee. Apparently he is doing a great